



## Loudoun County Board of Supervisors

[www.loudoun.gov/broadrun](http://www.loudoun.gov/broadrun)

Vice Chairman Shawn M. Williams, Broad Run District

1 Harrison Street, S.E., 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, MSC #1, Leesburg, VA 20175

Telephone (703) 771-5088 • Fax (703) 777-0421 • email: [shawn.williams@loudoun.gov](mailto:shawn.williams@loudoun.gov)

Dear Broad Run District Resident:

As your representative on the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors, I am pleased to once again provide you with an annual update on the Board's activity. Over the past year, we have continued to make considerable progress towards solving our transportation issues, fostering economic development and adequately funding core government services. Additionally, Loudoun is making substantial gains with growing our commercial tax base; in 2013 the county added 5,000 jobs and 1.8 million square feet of new commercial development.

**FY 2015 Fiscal Plan:** On April 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Board adopted the FY 2015 fiscal plan and it contains a lot of good news for the Broad Run District. The operating budget includes \$922 million for the schools (a \$70 million increase over last year) and \$438 million for the general county government operations, in addition to a capital budget discussed below. To fund this budget, the Board lowered the real property tax rate from \$1.205 to \$1.155 per \$100 in assessed value, which will result in a flat tax bill on average when compared with last year due to assessment increases.

**County Operating Budget:** The \$438 million county government operational budget contains limited enhancements to keep pace with population growth. The largest expenditures are in the area of public safety, with \$69 million for the Department of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Management and \$82 million for the Sheriff's Office. The county's operations are efficient; local tax funding is increasing by only 2.1% for this portion of the budget, which is below revenue growth.

**LCPS Operating Budget:** The adopted budget includes a \$70 million increase for the Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS), an overall 8% increase over last year in a year with new student growth of 3.3%. The Board prioritized education in this budget with an 8.5% increase in local tax funding, the largest of any department. This allocation funded 96% of the LCPS budget request. I'm pleased the School Board was able to use their \$70 million increase to provide more competitive compensation for LCPS employees and to reduce elementary school class sizes by an average of one student. For future budgets, I am fully committed to ensuring LCPS continues to receive funding that keeps our school system top notch.

**Capital Improvement Program (CIP):** The CIP is Loudoun's plan and budget for infrastructure improvements over the next six years. Below is a partial list of CIP projects of importance to the Broad Run District:

- **Broad Run High School Renovation/Expansion:** \$26.5 million is funded in FY 2015 to construct a ten-classroom addition to BRHS, as well as expand the cafeteria, two resource spaces and a health room, stadium upgrades (including turf), along with other improvements. The renovation and expansion will increase student capacity from 1,468 to 1,600, eliminating the need for trailers.
- **Academies of Loudoun:** Approximately \$100 million has been set aside in FY 2015 and FY 2016 for this magnet high school focusing on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education which will be located off Sycolin Road just west of Ashburn.
- **Ashburn Recreation Center:** This recreation and community center, to be located off Belmont Ridge Road in Broadlands, will include an indoor lap pool, leisure pool and fitness center. \$67 million is funded for construction between FY 2017 and FY 2018, which includes \$14 million in proffer funding.
- **Ashburn Senior Center:** Because of the growing senior population in the Ashburn area, I was very pleased to be able to place this project the CIP. \$7.8 million has been allocated for construction in FY 2017

**Transportation Improvements:** The Board has put in place an aggressive plan to ease congestion in Loudoun. Focusing on completing missing roadway links and fixing traffic bottlenecks, the Board has dedicated two cents of the property tax rate to transportation and allocated approximately \$737 million in capital funding over the next six years, using a mix of state revenue and local tax dollars. Below is a partial list of projects that will positively impact the Broad Run District:

- **Gloucester Parkway:** This road will connect Gloucester to Route 28, providing better access for northern Ashburn to Route 28. Once complete, it's projected to remove thirty percent of the current traffic from Waxpool Road. Construction is scheduled to begin in November and completion is anticipated in 2016.
- **Waxpool Road Improvements:** Traffic flow improvements are funded at the intersections of Loudoun County Parkway, Broderick Drive and Pacific Boulevard, with construction beginning in early 2016. This project should fix the backup leaving the Wegmans' shopping center.

- **Belmont Ridge Road:** Funding is allocated from both the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) and Loudoun's local funding to widen Belmont Ridge to four lanes between Route 7 and Brambleton. Engineering and design work is currently underway; the road will be widened by 2018.
- **Route 28 Widening:** Route 28 southbound will be widened to four lanes from Sterling Boulevard to the Dulles Toll Road, which should relieve congestion during the morning rush hour. This project is funded by NVTA. Because design work is already complete, construction should commence later this year.
- **Route 7 Interchanges:** Design and engineering work is currently underway at Ashburn Village Boulevard and Belmont Ridge Road. Construction is projected to be underway later this fall.
- **Pacific Boulevard:** Construction has begun to connect Pacific Boulevard with Russell Branch Parkway, including a bridge across the Broad Run. Completion is currently anticipated in spring 2016.
- **Claiborne Parkway:** Construction is planned to begin this winter to connect Claiborne Parkway between Croson Lane and Ryan Road.
- **Farmwell Road Widening:** \$7 million is funded in FY 2016 to widen Farmwell Road to six lanes between Ashburn Road and Smith Switch Road. This project is funded by NVTA local transportation dollars.
- **Russell Branch Parkway:** Design and engineering work is complete for the connection between Ashburn Village Boulevard and Ashburn Road. Once right-of-way is acquired, construction should commence shortly.
- **Loudoun County Parkway:** \$51 million is planned for this project from FY 2015-2017. This will connect Loudoun County Parkway from Creighton Road to Route 606, allowing traffic to move from Route 50 to Route 7 entirely on Loudoun County Parkway.
- **Route 606 Widening:** Route 606 will be widened between Evergreen Mills Road and the Greenway to four lanes. Engineering and design work is currently underway, construction is currently planned to begin this winter.
- **Prentice Road/Sterling Boulevard Extension:** \$63 million in funding is allocated in FY 2018 and FY 2019 to build a new bridge across the Broad Run between Waxpool Road and the Greenway. This road will connect the two Metro stations in Loudoun and could potentially link with the Sterling Boulevard extension to provide an east-west alternative to Waxpool Road.

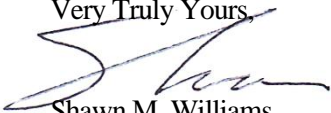
**AAA Bond Rating Re-Affirmed:** In May the three major credit rating agencies, Moody's, Fitch and Standard and Poor's, all re-affirmed Loudoun's AAA bond rating. All three agencies noted Loudoun's strong fiscal management and sound policies, including solid financial reserves. Additionally, the rating agencies anticipate that our economy is well positioned to grow, especially with the future expansion of Metrorail.

**Loudoun's Population Approaches 350,000:** A recent study by the University of Virginia places Loudoun's population at 348,000, an 11.4% increase from the 2010 census. This growth will continue because there are approximately 27,000 housing units slated for construction by 2020 are either by-right development (development allowed by the zoning code that does not require approval from the Board of Supervisors) or approvals from prior Boards. As you know well, increasing residential development has strained our roads and schools. I am also concerned about a number of current development applications that seek to convert commercial land to residential, which will erode our potential future business tax base. I will continue to view applications for higher residential density skeptically while encouraging business development. Overall, having a growing community is positive, but we need to make sure we don't outpace our infrastructure, which has been the case in the past.

**TIFIA Financing Approved for Metrorail – Savings for Taxpayers and Dulles Toll Road Users:** On May 1<sup>st</sup>, the U.S. Secretary of Transportation approved Loudoun's application for up to \$195.1 million in a low-interest loan through the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) to finance our portion of the Metrorail project. This financing mechanism will allow Loudoun to defer our first payment until five years after substantial completion of the project. This means we can build up more cash in the Metrorail Tax District (which encompasses commercial land and new developments around the stations) and borrow less overall to pay for the project. Additionally, TIFIA funding was also approved for the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA). Because of the low interest federal financing, MWAA has already announced they plan no new toll increases on the Dulles Toll Road for at least the next five years.

I take pride in responsiveness to constituent issues or concerns. Please let me know if there are any county issues, questions or concerns you have. For more frequent updates, sign up for my email newsletter and 'like' my Facebook page at [www.loudoun.gov/broadrun](http://www.loudoun.gov/broadrun), email me at [shawn.williams@loudoun.gov](mailto:shawn.williams@loudoun.gov) or call my office at 703-771-5088.

Very Truly Yours,



Shawn M. Williams

Vice Chairman and Broad Run District Supervisor